

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 15

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the need for the President to seek the Senate's advice and consent to ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1993

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS of Maine, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida, Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. McCLOSKEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Ms. MEEK, Mr. MFUME, Mrs. MINK, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROEMER, Mrs. SCHROEDER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. STARK, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mrs. UNSOELD, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. FOGLIETTA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the need for the President to seek the Senate's advice and consent to ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Whereas in 1990, 1 in 5 children in the United States lived in poverty;

Whereas during the 1980s the United States had the worst child poverty rate among Western industrialized nations surveyed in a 1991 study;

Whereas it is estimated that every night in the United States at least 100,000 children go to sleep homeless;

Whereas 1 in 10 infants, and 1 in 5 African-American infants, living in the United States has no routine source of health care;

Whereas the United States has the world's largest Gross National Product, yet American children rank below the top 15 nations in regard to their health and well-being;

Whereas in 1989, the infant mortality rate for the United States ranked 19th in the world, behind Singapore, Spain, and Ireland;

Whereas from 1980 through 1988, the number of babies born in the United States with low birthweights ranked the United States 29th in the world;

Whereas in immunizing its children the United States ranks 17th in the world;

Whereas in the next 4 years, approximately 144,000 babies will die in the United States before their 1st birthday;

Whereas the National Commission on Children has declared that "Every child in America needs an excellent education . . . yet approximately 40 percent of the Nation's children are at risk of school failure" and "American students continue to lag behind their counterparts in many developed and developing nations in standardized measures of reading, math, and science";

Whereas an estimated 407,000 children in the United States, almost a 50 percent increase since 1986, depend on an overwhelmed, inadequate foster care system;

Whereas in the United States, 2,600,000 children were reported to be abused and neglected in 1991;

Whereas it is estimated that 1,800,000 teenagers were victims of violent crimes in the United States in 1988;

Whereas the Supreme Court has never fully articulated the range of rights to be accorded to children under the United States Constitution or fully articulated the manner in which the Constitution is applicable to minors;

Whereas the positive futures of our families, communities, and Nation are dependent on the full and healthy development of our children;

Whereas the United States actively participated in the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and was the main proponent of many of the Convention's articles;

Whereas in November 1989, the United States and other members of the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously endorsed the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which codified society's responsibilities to children in setting minimum standards for survival, health, education, certain protection against violence and exploitation, and respect for the child's dignity;

Whereas as of May 1992, 117 countries had become state parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child by ratification or accession, and 29 others had signed the Convention indicating their intention to ratify the Convention in the future;

Whereas the United States is the only Western industrialized Nation which has neither signed nor ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the United States joins Iraq, South Africa, Libya, and Cambodia as 1 of fewer than 30 of the 178 member states of the United

Nations which neither is a state party to the Convention nor has signed it;

Whereas the issue of children's rights and their well-being is important both to the United States and the world at large;

Whereas it is essential that the United States sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and begin to implement the Convention's legal standards in order to improve and protect the lives of children in this country and abroad and for our Nation to be credible as a proponent of human rights;

Whereas at the World Summit for Children in September 1990, the United States signed the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, which included a commitment to "work to promote the earliest possible ratification and implementation on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child"; and

Whereas the House of Representatives passed a resolution during the 101st Congress urging the President to seek the consent of the Senate to ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but such action having not occurred, it is necessary that the Congress implore the President to take action on the Convention: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the
 3 President should promptly seek the advice and consent of
 4 the Senate to ratification of the Convention on the Rights
 5 of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General As-

1 sembly with the support of the United States on
2 November 20, 1989.

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